

Minutes

2021 Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission

September 2, 2021 Meeting

Present: Zach Smith (at-large member); Megan Berman, Ed Delaney, Keasha Haythe, and Maxwell McCall (via Zoom) (Democratic Central Committee representatives); Jennifer Williams (Republican Central Committee representative); Jeri Cook, Director, Talbot County Board of Elections; Mark Cohoon, Talbot County GIS Manager (County staff representative); Jessica Morris, Assistant County Manager; Patrick Thomas, Acting County attorney

Absent: Karla Wieland-Cherry; Janet Greenhawk; Susan Roecker (Republican Central Committee representatives)

The 2021 Talbot County Board of Education Redistricting Commission ("the Commission") held a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 2, 2021 in Conference Room 1, Talbot County Government Building, 215 Bay Street, Easton. Chairman Zach Smith called the meeting to order and following introduction of members present, Mark Cohoon provided an overview of census data received as well as demographic information for each of the seven districts.

District 1 is currently the majority minority district and it appears based on the 2020 U.S. Census Data this will remain the majority minority district. Discussion ensued with several Commission members noting that District 2 has grown considerably in population (4,394 in 2010 to 4,892 in 2020). Mr. Thomas provided guidance to the Commission in accordance with Education Article § 3-12A-01, Md. Code Ann. which states in part, "The districts are required to be reasonably compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population..."

Mr. Cohoon noted he will continue to analyze the census blocks and provide a few options for the Commission's review and consideration. The Commission discussed making adjustments to Districts 1 and 2, but to make no adjustments to Districts 3-7.

Upon motion by Jennifer Williams, seconded by Ed Delaney, all members present voted in favor of moving approximately 400 voters from District 2 to District 1, to ensure that District 1 remains the majority minority district and to make no adjustments to Districts 3-7. There was no objection.

Keasha Haythe asked Mr. Cohoon to ascertain if the new apartment rental community on Matthewstown Road in Easton (Galloway Meadows) will have any impact to District 4.

Mr. Cohoon noted the census data for the prison population has not yet been released (anticipated to be released on September 8, 2021), however, he does not anticipate it will make any impact to the districts once released and analyzed.

Upon motion by Ed Delaney, seconded by Jennifer Williams, the meeting minutes of July 15, 2021 were approved by all members present. There was no objection.

The Commission members present discussed next meeting dates and noted that the September 7, 2021 meeting is too soon and does not allow Mr. Cohoon enough time to analyze the census data. Therefore, the meeting of September 7, 2021 is cancelled. The Commission will reconvene on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1, Talbot County Government Building, 215 Bay Street, Easton.

Jeri Cook discussed the various ballot styles for each District precinct and noted there is a small portion of District 2 (possibly 3-4 residences) that should be moved into District 5. Commission members discussed the issue and expressed their desire that the current Board of Education members stay within their current districts. Upon motion by Jennifer Williams, seconded by Megan Berman, the Commission members present requested Ms. Cook work with Mr. Cohoon to review the current Board of Education members' addresses and districts, ensure that they remain within their current district and provide proposed changes to the ballot styles and districts for the Commission's review and recommendation at the September 30, 2021 meeting. There was no objection.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jessica Morris

Talbot County Assistant County Manager